Statement

Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers

(Base 1982=100)

Month	Consumer Price Index		Value of Rupee (in Paise)	
	1999-2000	2000-2001	1999-2000	2000-2001
September	429	444	23.31	22.52
October	437	449	22.88	22.27
November	438	450	22.83	22.22
December	431	446	23.20	22.42
January	431	445	23.20	22.47
February	430	443	23.25	22.57

Employees Pension Scheme 1995

3723. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations in respect of improvements in the "Employees Pension Scheme 1995", made by the "Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund";

(b) whether Government have accepted all the recommendations; and

(c) the brief details of the recommendations and the action/ decision taken by Government on each recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The recommendations/suggestions received from the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund and other sources related *inter-alia* to removal of discrimination between married sons and married daughters and between remarrying widows and remarrying widowers, extension of the scheme benefits to the employees drawing wages beyond Rs. 5000/- per month,

provision for commutation, reduction in discounting rate for early payment of pension, provision of ensuring pension payment in default cases, application of the scheme to the serving subscribers who did not join the Family Pension Scheme, 1971, refund of family pension related withdrawal benefit in the case of exemption and coverage of piece-rated workers. These suggestions were examined and a notification carrying out necessary amendments in the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 was issued on 28.2.1996. Based on the recommendations of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund, the Scheme has been further amended providing *inter-alia,* for payment of pension to the dependant parents, life long pension to the disabled children enhancement of minimum children pension from Rs. 115/- to Rs.150/- per month, minimum orphan pension from Rs. 170/- to Rs.250/- per month, minimum widow pension to Rs.450/- per month in respect of the beneficiaries of the ceased Family Pension Scheme, 1971. Consequent to first annual valuation of the Pension Fund an increase of 4% on pension in payment was sanctioned to the beneficiaries w.e.f. 16.11.1996. On completion of second annual valuation of the Pension Fund as on 31.3.1998, an additional increase of 5.5% on pension in payment has been sanctioned to the pensioners w.e.f. 1.4.1998. However, the recommendation of the Central Board of Trustees for enhancement of interest on the pension fund kept in public account from 8.5% to 12% per annum has not been found acceptable by the Government due to financial constraints.

Medical delivery system in ESI Scheme

3724. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of Experts has been set up by the Central Government to study the existing medical delivery system in ESI Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;